



NORTHAMPTON

Hampshire County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Northampton is a lively, diverse community located in the heart of the Five College Area of the Pioneer Valley. Home to Smith College, Northampton also serves as the county seat of Hampshire County. It is located at the intersection of a major east-west highway which links Amherst and the University of Massachusetts with the hilltowns to the west, and the north-south corridor of Route 91. Calvin Coolidge once served as mayor, while the city's first woman mayor, the Honorable Mary Ford, was elected in 1991 and serves today.

Residents see Northampton as both traditional and innovative. Several village centers provide focal points for outlying residential areas while the downtown is alive days and evenings with a wide selection of restaurants, coffee and ice-cream shops, theaters including the only municipally owned theater in the state, clubs featuring an array of music, street musicians and a Center for the Arts. All of this provides a perfect atmosphere for strolling, area. The city also offers strong municipal programs in education, recreation, public safety and public works. It is known for its energy conservation program and its initiative to improve handicap access to downtown establishments.

The community has a strong and diverse economic base consisting of a resilient retail and commercial sector, a manufacturing sector which shows a mixture of traditional operations (wire protrusion, plastic molding) and innovative ones (production of heat sensing devices) and a large institutional base which includes county services, three hospitals and Smith College. The vibrant small city atmosphere of the community is enhanced by rich natural resources, which include the Connecticut River, agricultural and conservation lands and the Acadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Residents believe Northampton has a rich history and are confident that its future which will be built on its diverse population base, solid economic base and abundant resources.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Western Massachusetts, bordered by Easthampton on the south, Westhampton on the west, Williamsburg and Hatfield on the north, separated by the Connecticut River from Hadley on the east. Northampton is 43 miles east of Pittsfield; 93 miles west of Boston; 30 miles north of New Haven, Connecticut; and 151 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 35.60 sq. miles

Land Area: 34.46 sq. miles

Population: 29,289

Density: 850 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Knightville Dam Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.7°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Easthampton, Mt. Holyoke

Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Springfield



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 586-6950

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Mayor-Council

Year Incorporated

As a town:

As a city: 1883

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

Number	%
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Total Registered 15,081

Democrats 7,313 48.5 % Republicans 1,120 7.4 % Other parties 28 0.2 % Unenrolled Voters 6,620 43.9 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Northampton city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	28,978	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	28,978	100.0
Male.....	12,480	43.1	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	1,518	5.2
Female.....	16,498	56.9	Mexican.....	106	0.4
Under 5 years.....	1,189	4.1	Puerto Rican.....	1,011	3.5
5 to 9 years.....	1,353	4.7	Cuban.....	37	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,522	5.3	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	364	1.3
15 to 19 years.....	2,331	8.0	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	27,460	94.8
20 to 24 years.....	2,979	10.3	White alone.....	25,433	87.8
25 to 34 years.....	4,098	14.1	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	4,573	15.8	Total population.....	28,978	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	4,731	16.3	In households.....	25,376	87.6
55 to 59 years.....	1,261	4.4	Householder.....	11,880	41.0
60 to 64 years.....	948	3.3	Spouse.....	4,355	15.0
65 to 74 years.....	1,716	5.9	Child.....	6,000	20.7
75 to 84 years.....	1,595	5.5	Own child under 18 years.....	4,576	15.8
85 years and over.....	682	2.4	Other relatives.....	609	2.1
Median age (years).....	37.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	192	0.7
18 years and over.....	24,061	83.0	Nonrelatives.....	2,532	8.7
Male.....	9,997	34.5	Unmarried partner.....	1,061	3.6
Female.....	14,064	48.5	In group quarters.....	3,602	12.4
21 years and over.....	21,810	75.3	Institutionalized population.....	1,090	3.8
62 years and over.....	4,514	15.6	Noninstitutionalized population.....	2,512	8.7
65 years and over.....	3,993	13.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,508	5.2	Total households.....	11,880	100.0
Female.....	2,485	8.6	Family households (families).....	5,878	49.5
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	2,716	22.9
One race.....	28,389	98.0	Married-couple family.....	4,355	36.7
White.....	26,083	90.0	With own children under 18 years.....	1,824	15.4
Black or African American.....	602	2.1	Female householder, no husband present.....	1,200	10.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	86	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	734	6.2
Asian.....	906	3.1	Nonfamily households.....	6,002	50.5
Asian Indian.....	225	0.8	Householder living alone.....	4,431	37.3
Chinese.....	217	0.7	Householder 65 years and over.....	1,276	10.7
Filipino.....	38	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,884	24.3
Japanese.....	55	0.2	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	2,570	21.6
Korean.....	155	0.5	Average household size.....	2.14	(X)
Vietnamese.....	56	0.2	Average family size.....	2.87	(X)
Other Asian ¹	160	0.6	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	15	0.1	Total housing units.....	12,405	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	3	-	Occupied housing units.....	11,880	95.8
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	4	-	Vacant housing units.....	525	4.2
Samoa.....	8	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	123	1.0
Some other race.....	697	2.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	589	2.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.4	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	11,880	100.0
White.....	26,573	91.7	Owner-occupied housing units.....	6,356	53.5
Black or African American.....	800	2.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	5,524	46.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	261	0.9	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.44	(X)
Asian.....	1,086	3.7	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.79	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	40	0.1			
Some other race.....	858	3.0			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 508

Conventional Federal: 110

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 41

Federal (Section 8): 128



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Northampton is located in the Pioneer Valley, known as the crossroads of New England because of its strategic position along the Connecticut River and its excellent transportation facilities. The Massachusetts Turnpike connects the region to Boston and to Albany, New York. Interstate 91 provides direct access to Hartford, Connecticut, and to Brattleboro and points north in Vermont.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 5 and Interstate Route 91, which run N-S across the state, and State Route 9 running E-W.

Rail

Amtrak offers daily bus service between Burlington, Vermont, and Springfield, Massachusetts, that connects up to its Springfield-Washington rail service. Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number: (508) 663-1073

Bus

Northampton is a member of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA), which provides fixed route service, and offers paratransit services to the elderly and disabled. Peter Pan Bus Lines provides service to Springfield, Worcester, Boston, and Hartford. Vermont Transit Lines connects to Greenfield, Brattleboro, VT and points north, and to Holyoke, Springfield and Hartford, CT.

Other

LaFleur Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located 1 mi. NE of Northampton, has a 3,506' x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Peter Pan Bus Lines offers transportation to Logan Airport from Northampton 7 days a week, and connects from Springfield to Hartford and Bradley Airport, and to Kennedy and Laganardia Airports in New York City.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

The Botanic Garden of Smith College

Lyman Plant House, College Lane

(413) 585-2748

Calvin Coolidge Memorial Room, Forbes Library

20 West Street

(413) 584-6037

Historic Northampton

46 Bridge Street

(413) 584-6011

Smith College Museum of Art

Elm Street at Bedford Terrace

(413) 585-2760

MUSEUMS

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Cooley Dickinson Hospital
Mcallister Infirmary

Long Term Care

Hampshire County Ltcf
Linda Manor Extended Care Fac
New Medico Snc Pioneer Valley
Northampton Nursing Home Inc
Pine Rest Nursing Home

Hospices

Hampshire County Hospice, Inc

Rest Homes

Florence Rest Home
Lathrop Home For Aged Women
River Valley Rest Home
Rockridge/Laurel Park

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.